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Spy's Wife Called 'Willing' Crime Partner

By Nancy Lewis
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Anne Henderson-Pollard was a "willing partner in crime" of her husband, admitted spy Jonathan Jay Pollard, and sought help from one of Pollard's Israeli "handlers" the first night Pollard was questioned by authorities, government prosecutors said in a court document filed yesterday.

The Israeli was Aviem Sella, one of three unindicted coconspirators in the Pollard spy ring who fled the United States before they were charged, and one of three persons Pollard had told his wife to contact if he were in "serious trouble."

After instructing Henderson-Pollard to call another of the Israeli coconspirators for help, Sella left her, saying: "You don't know me, you've never met me, you've never heard my name."

Details of the meeting, provided by Henderson-Pollard, were disclosed for the first time in a sentencing memorandum filed by prosecutors in which they asked Chief U.S. District Judge Aubrey E. Robinson Jr. to send Henderson-Pollard, 26, to prison for a "period of years."

"Anne Henderson-Pollard is not an innocent, not a puppet manipulated and left to 'hold the bag,' nor a mere observer who knew little and received no benefits. She is a mercenary driven by need and greed," said U.S. Attorney Joseph E. diGenova and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Charles S. Leeper and David F. Geneson.

Henderson-Pollard pleaded guilty in June to conspiracy to receive embezzled government property and to being an accessory after the fact of possession of national security documents. She faces a maximum 10-year prison term and \$500,000 fine when she is sentenced Feb. 10.

Her husband, who pleaded guilty to an espionage conspiracy charge, faces possible life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced the same day. Prosecutors, who said more than 1,000 classified documents were compromised by Pollard, have asked Robinson to sentence Pollard to a "substantial" prison term.

They have described the damage resulting from the Pollard spy ring as "exceptional" and said they fear

that foreign governments will attempt to compromise covert agents whose identities were disclosed by Pollard.

Pollard, 31, who had access to sensitive documents through his position with the Navy's Anti-Terrorist Alert Center in Suitland, received more than \$50,000 for the documents he turned over to the Israelis and was promised at least \$300,000 more in a Swiss bank account over 10 years.

Henderson-Pollard "reveled in the financial fruits" of the spy scheme, according to the prosecutors, "choosing to live a luxurious life style" that included accepting a \$10,000 sapphire and diamond engagement ring that she picked out at an exclusive Paris jeweler.

Henderson-Pollard's father, Bernard Henderson, denied yesterday that his daughter and son-in-law had lived lavishly, and characterized them as a young couple living in a rented apartment while struggling to pay off student loans.

Henderson described the prosecutors' document, which he said he had not seen, as "an almost childish work of fiction; only slightly more realistic than their original story that she was a Chinese Communist spy."

Henderson-Pollard has admitted that she asked for and received from her husband classified documents on the People's Republic of China that she used in an attempt to get a public relations contract with the embassy here. The documents were among those recovered from the Pollards' apartment.

Bernard Henderson said his daughter and son-in-law had a long-scheduled dinner engagement with Sella and his wife on the evening Jay Pollard was questioned by authorities, and that Henderson-Pollard's request for help was "nothing more than any spouse would do."

James F. Hibey, Henderson-Pollard's attorney, said the memo was a "gross exaggeration and mischaracterization of the facts" and that his client "never participated in any espionage scheme."

Hibey said the prosecutors' document was "shrill, inflammatory and inconsistent with the facts" and was "eminently unfair." He said he

would reply in a memo shortly before the sentencing.

The sentencing memo details many instances of how prosecutors say the Pollards used the money from the Israelis. It also reveals that both of the Pollards tried to recruit a friend to join the spy scheme by "upbraiding" his life style and telling him that he could make \$2,000 to \$3,000 a month working for the Israelis.

The Pollards were married on Aug. 9, 1985, in Venice on a three-week European vacation that prosecutors said also was financed by the Israelis.

Henderson-Pollard's engagement ring was ostensibly provided by her "Uncle Joe Fisher," a fictitious person created to cover the source of the Pollards' wealth. The Israelis even provided a handwritten note from "Uncle Joe" to go along with the ring. But prosecutors said Henderson-Pollard clearly knew that the ring came from the Israelis.

The note was one of hundreds of documents the Pollards shredded by hand in an abortive attempt to seek asylum at the Israeli Embassy here. Pollard was arrested Nov. 18, 1985, as the couple left the embassy compound, and Henderson-Pollard was arrested the next day.

The 18-page sentencing memorandum on Henderson-Pollard was filed one day after a similar, 55-page memorandum on her husband.

While prosecutors specifically blamed Pollard for misleading investigators in the early stages of the probe, which allowed the three coconspirators to flee, they said information provided by Henderson-Pollard had helped to corroborate their information about the involvement of the Israelis.